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**RESPONSE EXPEDITED UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**  
**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800**  
**Docket No. 29284/548**  
**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICATION NO.: 09/960,479

APPLICANT : Mitsuo TOKUDA et al.

FILED : September 24, 2001

T.C./ART UNIT: 2881

EXAMINER : James P. HUGHES

DOCKET NO.: 29284/548

CUSTOMER NO.: 23838

FOR : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING A MICRO SAMPLE

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*JH 1-31-04*  
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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
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**RESPONSE AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

In response to the Office Action mailed on August 13, 2003, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered to place this application in condition for allowance or better form for appeal.